

High Speed Precision Rectifier

by James Wong

The low offsets and excellent load driving capability of the OP-27 are key advantages in this precision rectifier circuit. The summing impedances can be as low as $1\text{k}\Omega$ which helps to reduce the effects of stray capacitance.

For positive inputs, D2 conducts and D1 is biased OFF. Amplifiers A1 and A2 act as a follower with output-to-input feedback and the R1 resistors are not critical. For negative inputs, D1 conducts and D2 is biased OFF. A1 acts as a follower and A2 serves as a precision inverter. In this mode, matching of the two R1 resistors is critical to gain accuracy.

Typical component values are 30pF for C_1 and $2\text{k}\Omega$ for R_3 . The drop across D1 must be less than the drop across the FET diode D2. A 1N914 for D1 and a 2N4393 for the JFET were used successfully.

The circuit provides full-wave rectification for inputs of up to $\pm 10\text{V}$ and up to 20kHz in frequency. To assure frequency stability, be sure to decouple the power supply inputs and minimize any capacitive loading. An OP-227, which is two OP-27 amplifiers in a single package, can be used to improve packaging density.

